

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 /140 W
-----009351 211110Z /13

R 210735Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC 2512
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

UNCLAS PALERMO 0631

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, IT
SUBJECT: ALGERIA/ITALY METHANE PIPELINE PROJECT

REF: CCP 1978, MAJOR PROJECTS

1. GERALD E. BUCK, COMMERCIAL MANAGER, AND W. R. NILES, CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATORS, OF SEMAC SERVICES OF ROTTERDAM - A PIPELINE LAYING COMPANY - VISITED COMMERCIALE SECTION JUNE 19 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON BUSINESS CONDITIONS AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SICILY. THEY SAID SEMAC IS INTERESTED IN BIDDING FOR CONTRACT OF LAYING PIPE IN UNDERWATER PORTION OF THE ALGERIA/ITALY METHANE PIPELINE BETWEEN TUNISIA AND SICILY.
2. SEMAC REP CLAIMED THEIR COMPANY IS ONE OF ONLY TWO OR THREE IN WORLD OWING EXTREMELY COSTLY (DOLS 150 MILLION EACH) PIPELAYING BARGES.
3. WE PROVIDE BUCK AND NILES WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING LABOR AND OTHER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SICILY AND WERE ALSO HANDED COPY OF OBR "SELLING IN ITALY" PAMPHLET.
4. BOTH EXPRESSED DOUBT AS TO THE LIKELIHOOD SEMAC'S OBTAINING

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- CONTRACT, WHICH THEY BELIEVE WILL BE AWARDED TO ONE OF THEIR COMPETITORS, SAIPEM, WHICH IS COMPANY CONTROLLED BY ENI (ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI), THE MAIN ITALIAN SPONSOR OF THE PROJECT. SAIPEM HAS ALREADY BUILT A HIGH COST PIPELAYING BARGE SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PROJECT WITH ITALIAN PUBLIC FUNDS.
5. MR. BUCK STATED ORIGINAL DEADLINE FOR BIDDING WAS FIRST WEEK IN JULY BUT BIDDERS HAVE BEEN INFORMED THIS DATE IS BEING POSTPONED

TWO-THREE WEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

6. ACCORDING TO BUCK AND NILES, SEMAC SERVICES IS OWNED BY ESSO,
SHELLAND ZAPATA OIL COMPANIES. SEMAC EURPEAN OFFICES ARE LOCATED
EUROPOINT 2, MARCONISTRAAT 8, ROTTERDAM. COLLINS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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